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Sen. Stamas urges use of child restraint seats during Child Passenger Safety Week

Lansing – As part of National Child Passenger Safety Week, February 8-14, state Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, encourages parents to keep their children safe while traveling.

“A properly installed child safety seat can mean the difference between life and death, or minor and severe injuries,” Stamas said. “There is nothing more important than the health and safety of our children.”

Motor vehicle accidents remain the leading cause of accidental death for children age 15 years and younger, according to the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning. In 2002, 49 children 15 years old and younger died and 7,232 were injured in traffic crashes in Michigan.

One of the best ways to protect children while on the road is to use a child restraint seat. Stamas offers parents and child caregivers these safety reminders:

- Face infant seats to the rear in the back seat from birth to at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
- Face safety seats to the front in the back seat from age 1 to about age 4 and 20 to 40 pounds.
- Place booster seats in the back seat from about age 4 and 40 pounds to at least age 8, unless 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Use safety belts at age 8 or older, or taller than 4 feet 9 inches tall. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.
- Buckle up! Children learn by example.

Child Passenger Safety Week is a national effort to tout the benefits of child safety seats on every trip, every time. For more information, contact Stamas’ office toll-free at 1-866-305-2136 or visit www.nhtsa.dot.gov.